

In the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A non-woven material comprising a fiber that includes a modified poly(ethylene oxide), wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by grafting a polar vinyl monomer to a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 350,000 g/mol before grafting of the polar vinyl monomer.
22. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 21, wherein the ~~poly(ethylene oxide) is capable of being melt-spun into fibers~~ the fiber is melt spun.
23. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 22, wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) has an apparent viscosity of less than 200 Pascal*seconds at sheer rates of not less than 100 second⁻¹ and not greater than 1,000 second⁻¹.
24. (Previously Presented) The non-woven of Claim 22, wherein the non-woven consists essentially of poly(ethylene oxide).
25. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer.
26. (Previously Presented) The non-woven of Claim 25, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified from a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular

weight before modification within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 100,000 g/mol.

27. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by the addition of an initiator.
28. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.
29. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;
wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate and has an average molecular weight of not greater than about 5,000 grams per mol.
30. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is added within the range of about 0.1 to about 20 weight percent relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide).
31. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;
wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate.
- 32.- 35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 21, wherein the non-woven material is produced by a spun-bond process.

37. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 22, wherein the non-woven material is produced by a melt-blown process.